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This I believe:

When I was fourteen, I was diagnosed with a posterior bulge with mild loss of height of the intervertebral disc. This might seem like nonsensical words, but to me, it draws the limits for me to pursue my passion------basketball. Imagine a fish trapped in a glass bowl. The fish is desperate for a life without borders, wanting to explore the world. But there are limits after all. No matter how hard it tries, it will still remain in the glass bowl. This was exactly how I felt. But now, limits will never stop me from pursuing my passion.

Pursuing your passion has a lot to do with opportunities given to you. Without opportunities, excelling and moving toward your goal will be an arduous process. I was given many chances to expand my basketball journey. However, I have given many up.

I gave up the opportunity to be in the under 15 national team in Singapore. I gave up the opportunity to progress to the division finals. I gave up the opportunity to go to other countries to compete. Sometimes, I wonder if I should just give up the opportunity to play basketball. But then again, I have already given up all these exclusive experiences, why should I give up the one and only chance left for me to pursue my passion?

While opportunities help you go towards your passion, there are also limits hindering you from doing so. Just like an economically challenged student who has a passion for undersea flora and fauna. His limits are the exorbitant prices for scuba-diving equipment and lessons. Or perhaps like a dyslexic student wanting to become a renowned doctor. His limits are his difficulties in understanding complicated topics.

Nevertheless, one can still make it big by overcoming these setbacks. Like Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew, he was dyslexic too. Despite his learning disability, he became the first prime minister of Singapore. He is a role model, someone I can follow and look up to.

However, to go beyond limits scared me. I was scared that my back condition would worsen and that I might never be able to even walk properly again. This has made me extremely paranoid for every training, every match, and everything physically challenging.

“Know your limits but never accept them.” Well, limits are not just setbacks. Limits are obstacles that exist for one to overcome. At least I still have a way out of this. I can strengthen my muscles to brace my fragile back. Of course, I would never be confidently assured that I would not injure myself even more. But at least I am enjoying myself pursuing my passion, to play basketball.

Perhaps one day, the fish will look beyond the glistening glass bowl it is in and notice its intricate surroundings. The glass bowl will never stop the fish from exploring the world. Just like that, Limits will never stop me from pursuing my passion. Never.